dustrial Tribunals in different States, as on the 31st March, 1986 and 31st March, 1987; and

(b) the steps contemplated to ensure expeditious disposal of disputes in such Courts|Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The information relating to the industrial disputes pending before Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in the States|Union Territories is not maintained. However, according to available information, 213206 cases were pending as on 31.12.85 in different States|Union Territories barring the States of Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) The Working Group on Industrial Relations constituted for the formulation of the 7th Five Year Plan had recommended norms for disposal of cases and establishment of new courts. As per these recommendations, norms for disposal for each Tribunal should be 10 contested cases and for each Labour Court 20 contested applications per month and the normal workload of an Industrial Tribunal should be 200 cases and of the Labour Court 800 applications. These recommendations were communicated to all the State Governments/Union Territories with the request that remedial action be taken to reduce the pendency of cases. The State Governments/Union Territories set up Industrial Tribunals|Labour Courts under the provision of Industrial Disputes Act for the State sphere. The State Government/Union Territories are addressed from time to time to review the position of cases and wherever necessary set up additional Tribunals|Courts.

Visit of Japanese Economic Delegation

1822. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Japanese economic delegation had visited India recently for exploring further trade prospects between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) A delegation from the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited India in June, 1987, to attend the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Council.

Discussions were held on expansion of bilateral trade, areas of technical and financial collaboration, etc.

Amendment in air pollution control Act

1823. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the existing Air-pollution Control Act so as to make it more stringent;

(b) if so, what are the details of the amendments likely to be made in this regard; and

(c) by when the Act will be brought into force in major cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A bill to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.7.1987.

Pollution control boards in states

1824. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Governments and the Union Territories have been advised to set up Pollution Control Boards to check the menace of pollution; and

(b) if so, how many States have set up such Boards and what are the reasons for not setting up such Boards by the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States are to set up the Boards after adopting the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, in their State Assemblies. Eighteen States have set up Pollution Control Boards after adopting the Act. Tripura has adopted the Act, but has not so far set up a Board. The States of Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim have not yet adopted in the Act, and hence no Pollution Control Boards have been set up in these States. The Act has not also been adopted yet in the three new States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Goa.

Strike in ITDC hotels

1825. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) hotels went on a day's strike on July 23, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and what measures are being taken by Government to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The employees of ITDC's Delhi based hotels went on one day's strike on 23rd July, 1987.

(b) The main demands were:

(i) to start wage negotiations for the employees of hotel and catering establishments of ITDC;

(ii) release of interim relief to such employees;

(iii) withdrawal of the Employees State Insurance Scheme etc.

The ITDC management had discussed with the unions their demands on 21 July 87. The Unions were informed that the wage negotiations are dependent upon the grant of interim relief presently under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Govt. and that withdrawal of Employees State Insurance Scheme is not possible being a statutory obligation.

Cleaning of river Ganga

1826. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Attempts to clean Ganga lackadaisical" and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government does not agree with the view that attempts to clean Ganga have been lackadaisical. Till 31st July, 1987 a total of 259 schemes to be taken up in the three states of UP, Bihar and West Bengal under the Ganga Action Plan have been identified in consultation with the state governments.